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Prospects for Increasing Production and Export Opportunities in the Agricultural Sector of the Republic of Uzbekistan

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Abstract: *This article analyzes the role of agriculture in the national economy of the country and discusses issues such as the share of the country's GDP in 2020, employment of labor resources.*

Keywords: *agriculture, fruits and vegetables, labor force, income, foreign trade.*

Agriculture plays an important role in the national economy. According to the results of 2020, 28.2% of the country's GDP fell to this sector, and the employment of 27% of the labor force in this sector shows the role and importance of the industry in the economy.

In the balanced development of the agricultural sector, especially as a result of radical economic reforms in the country over the past five or six years, the volume of agricultural production has increased, productivity has increased, and the share of the sector in foreign trade is significant. For example, in 2019, as part of the country's foreign trade revenues, revenues from agricultural exports accounted for 9.8% of total foreign trade revenues, or more than doubling this figure compared to 2017. Information on the structure of fruit and vegetable exports in the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2018-2019, in millions of US dollars,

Table 1

Product types	2018 year	2019 year	In 2019, as a percentage of 2018
Fruits and berries	357,7	406,8	113,7
Vegetables	318,9	549,7	172,4
Grapes	179,7	223,7	124,5
walnut	22,9	14,4	62,9
Melons and watermelons	6,5	13,1	201,5

According to Table 1, in 2019, compared to 2018, the country's exports of fruits and berries increased by 113.7%, vegetables - by 172.4%, grapes - by 124.5%, exports of fresh melons and watermelons almost doubled. exports of products accounted for 62.9%.

The results of the study show that in recent years, the measures taken by the President to support export activities in the field play an important role in expanding the geography of exports of fruits and vegetables grown in the country. In particular, in accordance with the Decree of the President of the Republic of

Uzbekistan "On measures to expand the mechanisms of financing and insurance of exports" from 2019, the following benefits and preferences are provided to enterprises exporting products:

- Exporting enterprises and organizations are exempt from income and value added tax;
- 50% of the cost of all types of vehicles used for the export of agricultural products will be reimbursed on a subsidy basis;
- Exemption from state duties on import of new types of production equipment;
- International standardization and certification systems will be introduced in the field;
- Costs of participation in business seminars, trainings, trade missions and business forums in the regions of the country.

In addition, 434 projects worth \$ 740.1 million were implemented in 2017-2018 for the processing and export of agricultural products. Of these projects, 163 or 37.6% were for the development of fruit and vegetable and grape processing, and 159 or 36.6% were for equipping the cooling systems of fruit and vegetable storage and storage terminals for export, and 36 or 8.3% were for expanding packaging capacity. The remaining 76 will be used to finance projects for the production and processing of other types of agricultural and food products.

As noted above, as a result of measures taken to further develop the industry, the volume of production of agricultural products such as fruits and vegetables is increasing year by year, and the geography of exports of these products is expanding.

Information on the geography of fruit and vegetable exports in the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2019

Table 2

Name of importing countries	At the expense of a thousand tons	The cost is estimated at one million US dollars	Percentage to total, in%
Kyrgyz Republic	127,0	320,0	26,5
Kazakhstan	556,4	283,0	22,6
Russia	245,1	160,6	12,8
Turkey	65,2	101,8	8,1
Pakistan	76,2	78,8	6,3
Afghanistan	45,5	57,5	4,6
China	55,3	48,5	3,9
Ukraine	56,3	37,3	3,0
Tajikistan	21,0	13,5	1,1
Eron	16,2	12,4	1,0
Iraq	20,5	12,3	1,0
Belarus	14,3	10,6	0,8
Turkmenistan	27,5	9,7	0,8
BAA	8,5	9,5	0,8
Azerbaijan	6,5	7,3	0,6
Other partner countries	67,0	44,9	3,6

Table 2 shows that in 2019, 65.2% of fruits and vegetables exported from the territory of the republic accounted mainly for the CIS member states.

It is known that currently Uzbekistan has established economic relations with more than 140 countries and conducts trade under mutual agreements with 45 countries.

One of the main conditions for membership in the International Trade Organization is the widespread introduction of international standards in the field and a radical reform of the certification system. In 2020-2021, on the basis of cooperative approaches, 526 farms and enterprises will participate in 39 International Global G.A.P. standard and 4 Organic, 226 international ISO 22000 (HACCP) and 257 other similar standards and have adopted international trade requirements.

In order to further increase the country's export potential and expand its geography, Uzbekistan has become an observer of the Eurasian Economic Union in 2020, and is planning to take appropriate measures to join the World Trade Organization.

The results of the study show that in order to accelerate the development of these sectors in 2017-2021, given the importance of the role of agriculture and industrial processing in ensuring food security in the country, 21 laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan, 29 Presidential Decrees, It should be noted that 185 decisions were made.

Also, an important Presidential Decree "Strategy for the development of the agricultural sector of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2020-2030" was adopted, aimed at ensuring the sustainable development of the industry in the long term. According to him, the necessary mechanisms to ensure the long-term sustainable development of the industry have been developed, measures to strengthen food security in the country through the production of competitive products, sustainable supply of industry with quality raw materials and increase the export potential of the national economy. directions for implementation have been identified.

In order to further increase the economic efficiency of agricultural production and introduce new management mechanisms in the sector, the first cluster system was established in 2017 in the cotton-textile sector, and by 2020 the total number of agro-clusters in the country reached 463. In particular, 157 clusters on the area of 1038.0 thousand hectares in the direction of grain products, 122 clusters on the area of 1034.0 thousand hectares in the direction of cotton and textiles, 146 clusters on the area of 116.0 thousand hectares in the direction of fruits and vegetables, 29 clusters on the area of 21.0 thousand hectares. clusters are engaged in rice cultivation and 9 clusters in the area of 1,400 ha.

The rapid population growth in the country is also leading to an increase in their demand for quality organic food products. To this end, the following "Concept of efficient use of land and water resources in agriculture" was developed and approved for the development and re-use of agricultural land. According to him, the task is to gradually put into operation 1.1 million hectares of decommissioned land in 2020-2030. It also aims to identify groundwater resources and redevelop them through the widespread introduction of water-saving technologies in dry and pasture lands.

As a result of the above important measures, an additional 363.4 thousand hectares of agricultural land were put into re-use during 2019-2021. One of the important directions of comprehensive and systemic reforms in the agricultural sector of the country is the diversification of agricultural production.

In particular, in 2016-2020, large-scale measures were taken to cultivate other high-income and export-oriented agricultural products such as fruits and vegetables, berries on 330.5 thousand hectares of low-yield cotton and grain fields across the country. In place of the old orchards and vineyards, intensive orchards were planted on 69.6 thousand hectares, and new vineyards on 57.0 thousand hectares. In the spring of 2021 alone, orchards were planted on 63.8 thousand hectares in the country, as well as new vineyards on 37.5 thousand hectares, which is 11 and 7 times more than in 2016, respectively. As a result, the volume of vegetable production increased by 103%, potatoes - by 114%, melons - by 110%, legumes -

by 3.6 times, oilseeds - by 240%, animal feed - by 191%, fruits -107.4% and grape production increased by 106%.

In 2017-2020, the total number of greenhouses on farms and enterprises in the country increased by 3.2 thousand hectares, the area of modern greenhouses was expanded to 4.8 thousand hectares, 14 of these greenhouses. 2% is significant in that it is intended for hydroponic cultivation.

It is known that an adequate supply of water resources will be crucial in agricultural production. Therefore, the Republic pays great attention to measures for the rational use of water. A number of facilities have been created in the sector, which encourage businesses to widely implement water-saving technologies in their activities. In particular, during 2017-2020, water-saving technologies were introduced on 291.2 thousand hectares, including drip irrigation on 120.5 thousand hectares, sprinkler irrigation on 3.5 thousand hectares, discrete water-saving technology on 4.2 thousand hectares and 146, On 8,000 hectares, new cost-effective irrigation methods using water-saving technologies using flexible pipes have been introduced, and subsidy mechanisms are being implemented from the state budget to cover the costs of technology-importing entities.

The existence of differences between the soil-climatic and geographical location of the regions in the country requires in-depth specialization and specific approaches in the production of agricultural products. Taking into account the above, in 2019 by a special decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan until the end of 2023, 55 districts of the country will be specialized in the implementation of certain types of agricultural activities. According to him, 133.9 thousand hectares or 31.7% of the total 422.3 thousand hectares are horticultural products, 113.0 thousand hectares or 26.8% are viticulture, 49.9 thousand hectares or 11.8% are vegetables, 24.5 thousand hectares or 5.8% of melons, 15.8 thousand hectares or 3.7% of potatoes, 56.1 thousand hectares or 13.3% of legumes and medicinal plants, 6.1 thousand hectares or 1.4% of modern greenhouses farms and 22.9 thousand hectares or 5.4% of the total area will be specialized in the production of fodder crops and oilseeds for livestock and poultry. The annual increase in agricultural production in Uzbekistan requires the expansion of agro-logistics. Increasing the number of local agro-logistics infrastructure facilities will play an important role in the timely transportation, storage, processing and convenient delivery of agricultural products grown in the regions without destroying them. According to the data, 51 new agro-logistics centers with a capacity of 738,000 tons were commissioned in 2017-2020, and in 2021, 20 more such centers with a capacity of 282,000 tons were built, bringing the new annual capacity to 1.0 million tons. In total, the capacity of refrigerated storage facilities has been increased to 1.26 million tons. It can be seen that the capacity has increased 2.6 times compared to the 2017 figure. Of course, given that these capacities are much less than the demand, in accordance with the decision of the Government of the Republic, 8 new large agro-logistics centers with a capacity of 1.6 million tons are being built at the expense of the Asian Development Bank in cooperation with the French company Rungis Semmaris. increases the ability to export to any country in the world at any time.

Sustainable development of the industry will depend on the policy of training in the country, the level of development of science, the integration of education, science and industry in agriculture. To this end, the activities of the National Centers for Knowledge and Innovation in Agriculture and Agro-Service Centers in agriculture have been established in the country as an integrated system of educational institutions, production and agro-services. In addition, many research institutes are working in the field, creating high-yielding, climate-friendly varieties of plants, hybrids, which are widely used in practice. In 2019-2020, scientists will develop 15 new varieties, including 6 promising high-yielding varieties of cotton, and 9 such varieties and hybrids of vegetables. Over the past two years, the number of quotas for admission of applicants in various areas of the agricultural sector has doubled. Starting from the current academic year 2022-2023, the country has adopted a Presidential Decree on the establishment of another new

International Agricultural University in cooperation with the United Kingdom. The establishment of this important higher education institution has increased the number of agricultural universities to four, while the total number of affiliates, including branches, has approached 10.

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